

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION


On page 5, lines 4-19, please replace the paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

A License File or similar licensing parameter is the key to retaining control of the access to content after it has been downloaded. The License File contains numerous pieces of information regarding how the content can be consumed. Access restrictions can be based on the number of times the content can be accessed or a particular date after which the content is no longer ~~assessable~~ accessible, or the type of device to which the content may be transferred. Additionally, in the subscription context, the License Files may contain the subscription Date Paid To (“DPT”), which is the date through which the user’s subscription to the content provider can remain active. The License File may also include the Expiration Date (“ED”), which is the DPT date plus a preset Grace Period of time after the DPT. Once the ED is reached, access to the content will be restricted. The Grace Period is a certain number of days past the DPT to allow uninterrupted use of the content after the DPT, but prior to the user logging back on to renew his subscription. The Grace Period may be a fixed period of time in each instance but that amount may be altered by the subscription service for any access period. The License File may also include information about the specific computer the content was downloaded onto.

On page 13, line 17 to page 14, line 11, please replace the paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 2B continues the process set out in Figure 2A. If the User has the rights to his requested content (checked in step 210), the License Server creates the License File that will accompany the content and then sends a message to the Web Server on the status of the request (step 212). The Web Server then transparently transmits the status of the request and the License Files to the Client (step 216). The Client then sends the license information and/or files to be stored on the User computer and the information is sent to three separate locations. First, the Local Database records the information on the new content. Next, the License Store actually holds the individual License Files and the Registry records and keeps track of the DPT date (step 218). The Client then transmits the approved request to the Content Server for fulfillment (step 220). Finally, the Content Server fulfills the request and transmits the requested content to the User computer (step 222). That content will be available for access as long as the User's account is in good standing. Another embodiment can transmit the License Files to the Client at the same time as the content is downloaded. Thus, once a License File is created by the License Server, it can transmit the request to the Content Server and the Content Server can deliver the Content to the Web Server so both the License Files and Content can be downloaded simultaneously. The License Files and information can then be stored on the User computer in the same fashion as above.

On page 15, lines 9-18, please replace the paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 3B continues the process set out in Figure 3A. The License and Rights Server then verifies if renewals of the licenses can be acquired for each track (step 314). If a track cannot be renewed, the Client will receive an error message and no License File will be created for that item of content (step 318). However, all of the tracks that can be renewed will have a License File {W:\03652\000K015000\00612402.DOC  }

generated by the License and Rights Server (step 316). The License File contains the DPT and the ED and may also include information about the specific computer the content was downloaded onto. The License Files are returned to the Client to transparently renew them and their information stored in the appropriate places on the User computer (step 320). Those locations can be the License Storage, Local Database and the Registry.